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East Germany

SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from the Riesa-Zeithain Area

EVALUATION 25X1X

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

5 October 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

1. Between 8 and 11 September 1953, the Mudra Kaserne in Riesa was occupied to capacity as previously by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank and motor transport insignia. During the period under review, source heard that orders were continually shouted in the barracks area. At 10 a.m. on 9 September, 18 to 20 trucks, each occupied by 20 to 25 officers, left the installation toward Zeithain.

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About six trucks, loaded with pontoons and boards

were seen en route to the Elbe River. Informants stated that engineer soldiers had built a bridge across the Elbe River near Moritz.

2. Between 8 and 11 September, the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne was occupied as previously by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with motor transport insignia, and troops wearing blue-bordered black and red-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia. At 9 a.m. on 4 September, about 180 to 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with motor transport insignia and armed with carbines and light and heavy machine guns, marched toward Merzdorf. An exercise with blank cartridges was held in the Merzdorf-Reussen area. The unit returned to the installation at about 1 a.m. On 10 September, about 100 to 120 troops left the installation toward Margendorf.

3. Between 8 and 11 September, the heavy vehicular traffic previously reported from Riesa and the Zeithain training grounds was no longer observed. On 8 September, several tank units arrived in Riesa and proceeded toward Zeithain via the Elbe bridge. During the night on 8 September, a major night exercise, which involved tanks, was held south of Zeithain. Fifty to 60 JS-1 tanks.

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[redacted] went from Zeithain toward Oschatz and/or Meissen. On 10 September, about 80 to 100 KVP practiced driving with six T-34/85 tanks between Lichtensee and Zeithain. At about 4 p.m. on 11 September, 12 T-34/85 tanks were seen en route to Zeithain, coming from the direction of Oschatz. [redacted]

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[redacted] Eight armored personnel carriers, [redacted] each occupied by 12 to 15 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets without branch of service insignia left Camp Zeithain toward Oschatz.

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4. Between 6 and 13 September, the Von-der Goltz Kaserne in Riess was occupied by about 80 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. [redacted]

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[redacted] During the same period, the Mudra Kaserne was occupied by at least 900 troops wearing red-bordered black and black-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank, engineer, signal and motor transport insignia. On 6 September, seven pontoons and bridge building equipment were seen in the installation. [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. Compare with a report by the same source covering the period prior to 4 September. [redacted]

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